

Public Notice

US ARMY CORPS
OF ENGINEERS
St. Louis District
Gateway to Excellence

Reply To:

Public Notice No.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

<u>P-2438</u>

Attn: Regulatory Branch

Public Notice Date

1222 Spruce Street

October 29, 2004

St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

Expiration Date

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until: November 20, 2004

File Number: 2004-02390

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States, as described below and shown on the attached maps.

<u>COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>: All comments and/or requests for public hearing must reach this office no later than the expiration date of the Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Comments should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch 1222 Spruce Street St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833 ATTN: Mr. Rob Gramke

<u>APPLICANT</u>: St. Charles County Parks and Recreation Department, 201 North Second Street, Room 510, St. Charles, Missouri 63301.

<u>AGENT</u>: Farnsworth Group, Attn: Mr. Frank Illingworth, 20 Allen Avenue, Suite 200, St. Louis, Missouri 63119. Phone - 314-962-7900.

LOCATION: The project site is located near the intersection of U.S. Highway 61 and Dietrich Road, in the northwest corner of St. Charles County. More specifically, the site is located in Sections 30 and 32, Township 48 North, Range 1 East, St. Charles County, Missouri.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant seeks authorization to conduct grading and utility construction in conjunction with the development of a 580-acre park. The primary purpose for this park is to preserve open space in St. Charles County and to provide visitors to the park with facilities that will enhance the historical and natural environmental heritage of the area. Amenities included in the park will be pavilions, picnic areas, interpretive trails, horse trails, a 6.2-acre pond, native grass and wildflower areas, prairie restoration areas, large group primitive camping areas, community eco playground, horse stables, paddock areas, and viewing stations. The site is composed of finger ridges rising out of the Big Creek Valley. The upland portion of the site is composed of forested ridges and open pasture that was historically used for grazing. The bottoms or floodplain area of the

site was farmed with row crops until 2003. This floodplain area contains approximately 55.8-acres of wetlands that were delineated by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. St. Charles County Parks plans to establish an additional 30-acres of wetland on the site. However, in order to build the park infrastructure, which will include approximately 3 miles of roadway, 13 parking lots, a deep well and water distribution system, electrical service, 11 composting restroom facilities, and pavilions. there will be approximately 9.9 acres of wetlands impacted by the project. However, there will not be a total loss of the 9.9-acres. This area will be graded, however the County and the Contractor will make every effort to minimize the impacts by constructing the roads near the existing grade of the land. In addition, the roads will follow a similar alignment to the existing dirt farm roads, and are designed without curbs or guttering so that sheet flow from the uplands should keep a similar flow pattern to pre-construction flow and hydrology. The remaining footprint of the construction area outside of the roads, parking lots, and pavilions, will be allowed to revert to an emergent wetland. In addition to the wetland impacts, the project will require the crossing of Indian Camp Creek and two small-unnamed tributaries. The Indian Camp Creek crossing will be a 100-foot span structure with minimal impacts to Indian Camp Creek. The tributary crossings will be culverts with less than 100 linear feet of channel impacts. We are considering the authorization of the crossings under Nationwide Permit 14, so that the applicant might begin construction of the crossings and the roads that are located on the upland portion of the site prior to the completion of this Individual Permit." As mitigation for wetland impacts, the applicant proposes to re-establish 30-acres of wetlands that would include the expansion of an existing sedge meadow, and the redevelopment of wet mesic and mesic prairies.

<u>LOCATION MAPS AND DRAWINGS</u>: See attached maps. This large-scale project is difficult to fit on 8x10 sheets. If it is necessary for you to view or review more detailed plans contact Rob Gramke at the number below or contact the applicant's agent listed above.

<u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>: Additional information may be obtained by contacting Rob Gramke, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (314) 331-8187. Your inquiries may also be sent by electronic facsimile to (314) 331-8741 or by e-mail to robert.gramke@mvs02.usace.army.mil.

<u>AUTHORITY:</u> This permit will be issued or denied under the following: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: The project plans have been submitted to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Pollution Control Program for state certification of the proposed work in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The certification is requested as of the date of this Public Notice, and if issued, will express the Agency's opinion that the proposed activities will not violate applicable water quality standards. Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Missouri should be addressed to: Water Pollution Control Program, Post Office Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0176, with a copy provided to the Corps of Engineers.

<u>SECTION 404 (b)(1) EVALUATION</u>: The impact of the activity on the public interest will be evaluated in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

<u>PUBLIC HEARING</u>: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the applicant's proposal. Any request for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reason for the hearing, and must be based on issues that would warrant additional public review.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, as amended, has been made that the work that is proposed would not affect species designated as threatened or endangered, or adversely affect critical habitat. Therefore, no formal consultation request has been made to the United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. In order to complete our evaluation, comments are solicited from the Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals through this Public Notice.

<u>CULTURAL RESOURCES:</u> A phase I survey was conducted for the site. Additionally, the St. Louis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice.

EVALUATION OF PROBABLE IMPACTS: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that may reasonably be expected to accrue from the described activity must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the activity described, will be considered including the cumulative effects. Among factors considered are: conservation; economics; aesthetics; general environmental concerns; wetlands; historic properties; fish and wildlife values; flood hazards; flood plain values; land use; navigation; shoreline erosion and accretion; recreation; water supply and conservation; water quality; energy needs; safety; food and fiber production; mineral needs; consideration of property ownership; and in general the needs and welfare of the people.

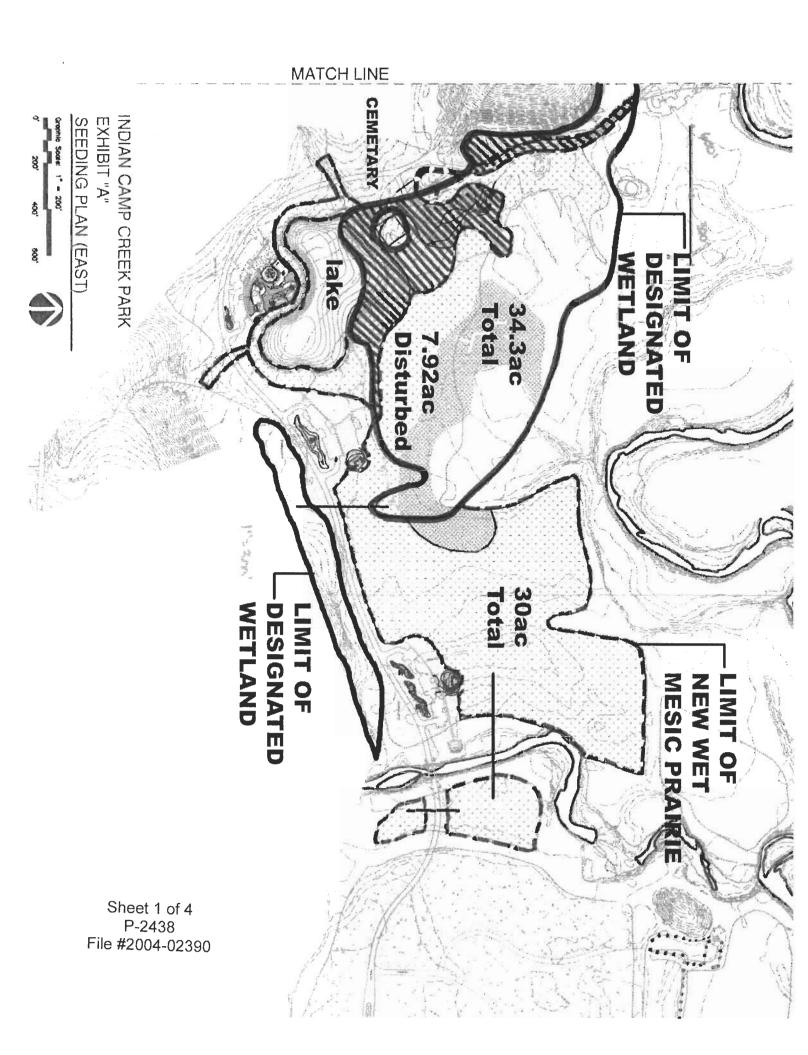
Solicitation of Comments From The Public: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

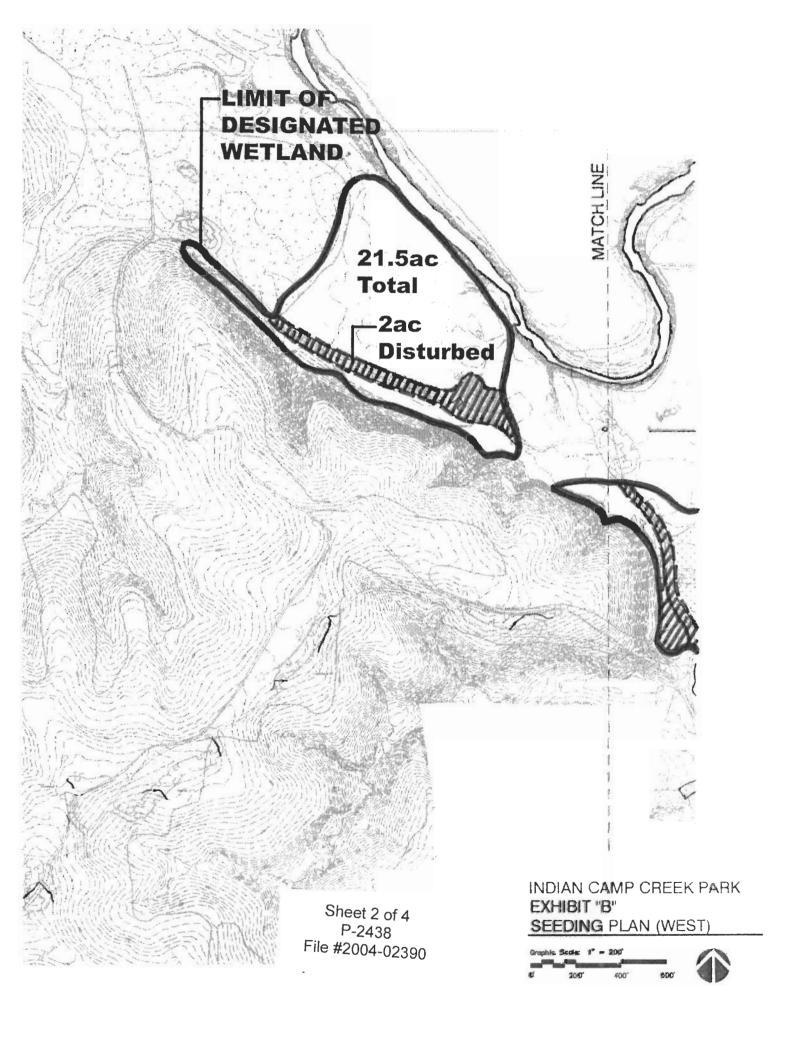
DANNY D MCCLENDON Chief. Regulatory Branch

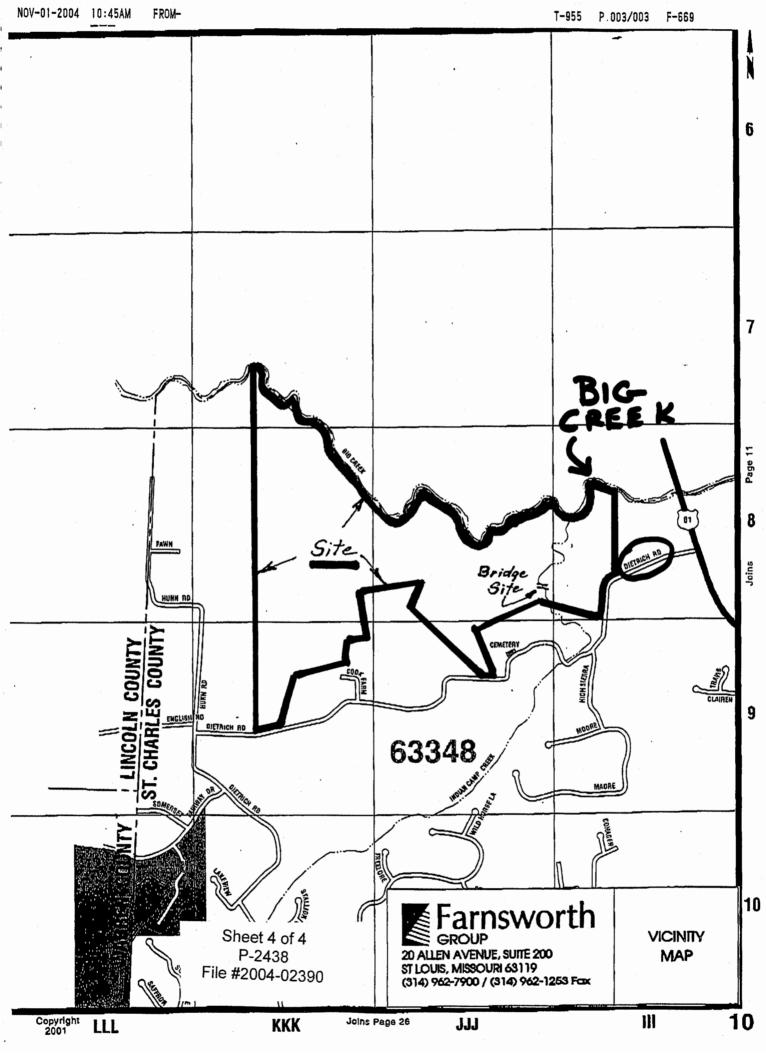
Attachments

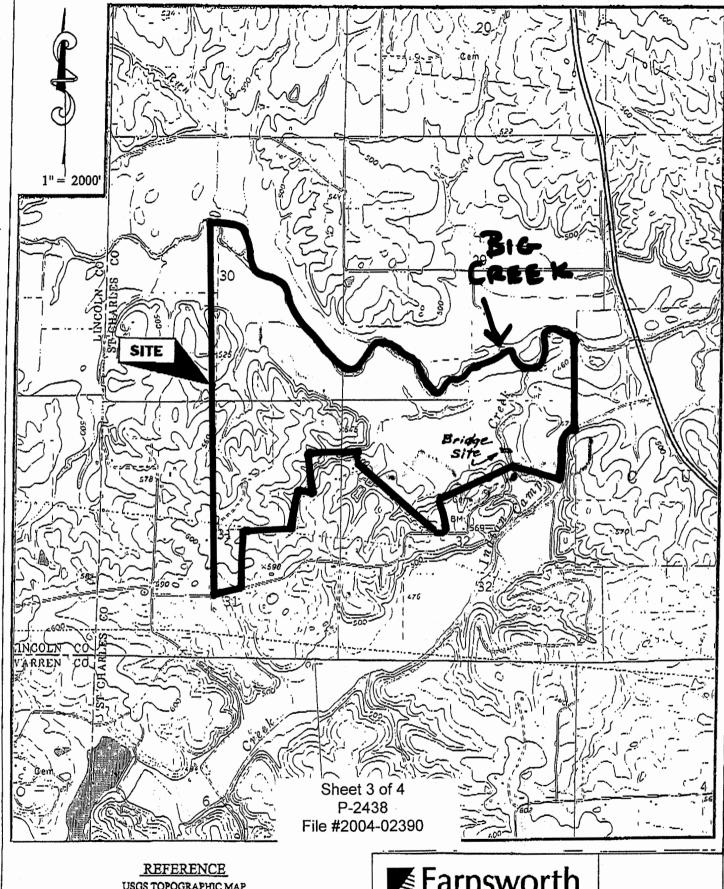
NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 21 days from the date of this issuance of this notice.









USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP TROY, MO. QUADRANGLE DATED 1972, PHOTOREVISED 1982 FORISTELL, MO. QUADRANGLE DATED 1972, PHOTOREVISED 1982

20' CONTOUR INTERVAL



20 ALLEN AVENUE, SUITE 200 ST LOUIS, MISSOURI 63179 (314) 962-7900 / (314) 962-1253 Fax VICINITY MAP